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ABSTRACT

Racial balance is the primary goal of the regulations presented in this document. For the purpose of expending funds under these regulations, the terms "magnet school facilities" and "magnet educational program" are defined and school eligibility requirements are listed. Program requirements are also listed along with proposals for magnet school development and funding. Responsibilities for magnet educational program operation are described in terms of both student and administrator roles. In addition, general information regarding proposals for magnet school or magnet program funds, application procedures, and other provisions such as priority and evaluation is included. (Author/EB)

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REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER 636 OF THE ACTS OF 1974, REGARDING MAGNET SCHOOL FACILITIES (SUBSECTION 37I), AND MAGNET EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (SUBSECTION 37J).

I. Definition:

1. For the purpose of expending funds under these regulations, the term "Magnet School Facilities" shall be defined as follows:

   a. A racially balanced public school or part thereof that attracts pupils on a voluntary basis from outside the neighborhood in which it is located for the purpose of reducing or eliminating racial imbalance or racial isolation and that attracts students because of the unique or innovative characteristics of the program or activities offered, the staff, the available resources, the curriculum, or other dimensions of the overall educational experience.

2. For the purpose of expending funds under these regulations, the term "Magnet Educational Program" shall be defined as follows:

   a. Educational measures including, but not limited to, planning and special services, instruction, or treatment of children, whether at the public school or other public or private facility or place; and that provide children with a racially balanced educational experience in which not more than 50% nor less than 30% of the students involved are non-white, except in special circumstances.

II. Eligibility

1. School systems that have full-time racially balanced magnet schools shall be eligible to apply for funds for magnet school operations (III.1 below). Such schools must operate under a specific written admissions policy to assure that racial balance will be maintained.

2. School systems operating racially imbalanced or racially isolated magnet schools shall be eligible to apply for funds for magnet school operations (III.1 below) and for magnet school development (III.2 below). Such schools must operate under a specific written admission policy that will assure that the school will be racially balanced within one year from the receipt of funding.

3. School systems that intend to plan, organize, or otherwise establish new magnet schools shall be eligible to apply for funds for magnet school development (III.2 below).

4. School systems that offer or intend to offer part-time magnet educational programs shall be eligible to apply for funds for magnet educational program operation (III.3 below). Such programs may be offered in collaboration with other public or private organizations. Other public and private organizations may be recipients of funds subject to appropriation for this purpose.

III. Program Requirements

1. Magnet School Operation

a. Students attending magnet school facilities should attend on a full-time basis. Such attendance shall imply no waiver of the requirements of applicable state education statutes.

b. Those responsible for administering a magnet school facility must submit to the Board every two months all data which will substantiate the racially balanced status of the school, including the race, home address, regularly assigned school and grade of every child enrolled in the school, on forms to be provided by the Department of Education.

c. The average per pupil cost (above the regular per pupil cost) of educating pupils in magnet school facilities is not to exceed $300 per pupil, not including transportation. The transportation costs are also eligible for receipt of funds.

2. Magnet School Development

a. Proposals for magnet school development must include the following information: Complete projected enrollment data, including recruitment procedures, and identification of the school or area from which students will be drawn; a complete description of planned educational programs, including curriculum, special programs, etc.; a complete description of projected orientation activities for staff, parents, and community residents around the proposed school; provisions for monthly or quarterly reports and a final report to be submitted to the Board by July 31, 1975 on steps being taken to insure a racially balanced student enrollment; and all other information pertinent to the development of a magnet school.

b. Costs eligible for receipt of funds for magnet school development may include: All costs incident to the planning of a magnet school facility, including personnel, consultant, contractual, and other expenses; costs for facility rehabilitation and improvement; and such other costs as are incident to the development of magnet school facilities.

3. Magnet Educational Program Operation

a. Students attending magnet educational programs should attend on a part-time basis. In no case should the program provide less than the equivalent of ten school days per semester, except that this requirement may be waived by the Department in special circumstances. The magnet educational program, if it functions during regular school hours, shall be designed to insure that the student will receive full credit at the school in which she/he is enrolled on a full-time basis.

b. Magnet educational programs shall draw students from at least two different schools.

c. Those responsible for administering each magnet educational program must submit to the Board every two months all data which will substantiate the status of each program, including the ethnic identity, school, and school system of each child enrolled in the program and other project information, on forms to be provided by the Department of Education.

d. Proposals for magnet educational programs must include the following information: Complete data on the process of student selection; educational purposes and objectives; staffing; community participation in program development; planned orientation for students, parents, and faculty; and all other information pertinent to the provision of manget educational programs.

e. The average per pupil cost of providing the magnet educational program should not exceed $20 per day per pupil, not including transportation. Transportation costs are also eligible for receipt of funds.

4. General

a. All proposals for magnet school or magnet program funds shall include a full evaluation component describing evaluation procedures to be used to measure the effectiveness of the program; a sum between 5% and 10% of the total project cost shall be set aside for this purpose.

b. Failure to submit adequate information and data as required by items III.1.b, III.2.a, and III.3.c, above, will result in termination of funding by the Board.

c. In the event that the number of places available at a magnet school facility or magnet educational program is exceeded by the number of pupils who have applied to attend such school or program, priority shall be given to those non-white pupils who are attending or otherwise would attend a racially imbalanced school and for those white pupils who are attending or otherwise would attend a racially isolated school.

d. After the awarding of a grant, transfers of funds within budget categories must be approved in writing by the Project Director, Bureau of Equal Educational Opportunity, Department of Education, if such transfers amount to more than 20% of the budget category.

IV. Application Procedures

1. School systems intending to apply for funds under these regulations should submit a letter of intent to the Bureau of Equal Educational Opportunity, 182 Tremont Street, Boston Mass. 02111. This letter should outline briefly the proposed program, the school, grade and race of students to be served by the proposed program.

2. After letters of intent have been received by the Bureau, a proposal writing workshop will be held to provide assistance and further information. Organizations submitting a letter of intent will be notified by the Bureau about the location and time of proposal writing workshops. At least one representative of each magnet school, magnet school development project, or magnet program should attend said workshop.

3. Proposals for magnet school facilities and magnet educational programs must be submitted in form according to instructions and guidelines to be distributed by the Department of Education. Instructions and guidelines on proposal writing will be made available at the proposal writing workshops, and will be mailed to other interested parties on request.

V. Other Provisions

1. Priority will be given by the Board to magnet educational programs which bring together students from urban and suburban settings, to provide them with racially integrated educational experiences. Such programs may involve white and non-white students from urban schools, and white and non-white students from suburban schools.

2. The Board takes no position on whether any magnet school approved for funding under these regulations will also serve as a magnet school under any court ordered desegregation plan.

3. The Board of Education reserves the right to fund a part of a proposal and seek modifications of those parts of a proposal that are found to be unacceptable.

4. After awarding of grants, the Board reserves the right to evaluate and monitor all programs fully using on-site visitations with appropriate notice, and other written and verbal measures. In no way is this meant to limit the responsibility of the person(s) developing the proposal to describe and implement a full evaluation component as a mandated segment of every proposal.

5. Payment of money by the Board will be made on a periodic basis, subject to terminination on a showing that proposed activities are not being satisfactorily carried out.

6. Any payment of funds authorized by the Board under these regulations and accepted by a school committee of a city, town, or regional school district for the purpose of providing magnet school facilities or magnet educational programs shall be deposited with the treasurer of such city, town, or regional school district and held in a separate account and may be expended without further appropriation.

7. Each school department applying for funds under these guidelines must agree to comply with all provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971, and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to regulations thereto.

8. The Board reserves the right to audit the expenditure of all payments of funds made according to these regulations.

February 25, 1975